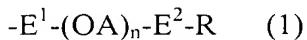


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An allergen inactivating agent comprising a polysaccharide derivative as its effective component, wherein said the polysaccharide derivative has a cellulose ether ~~or a starch ether~~ as its backbone, and some or all of hydrogen atoms in the hydroxy group of the polysaccharide derivative are substituted by a group represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein E^1 represents an alkylene containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group or an oxo group; n represents a number of 0 to 50; A independently represents an alkylene containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the number of A being n ; E^2 represents an ether bond or an oxycarbonyl group; R represents an alkyl group containing 4 to 30 carbon atoms optionally substituted with hydroxy group, a sulfoalkyl group containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms optionally substituted with hydroxy group, or a salt thereof,

wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 600,000.

Claim 2. (Original) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein said allergen is selected from plant allergen, animal allergen, fungi, bacterium, and house dust.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said the cellulose ether ~~or starch ether~~ is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The allergen inactivating agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is the one which detoxicates mite or pollen allergen.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The allergen inactivating agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is the one which blocks mite or pollen allergen.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The allergen inactivating agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is an aerosol ~~sprayed on a mask~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A mask ~~containing~~ comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A sheet ~~containing~~ comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein said ~~the~~ sheet is used for a mask.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic product wherein allergens have been inactivated, said ~~the~~ cosmetic product ~~containing~~ comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~.

Claims 10-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 13. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 200,000.

Claim 14. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 15. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is an aerosol.

Claim 16 (New) A mask comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13.

Claim 17. (New) A sheet comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13, wherein the sheet is used for a mask.

Claim 18. (New) A cosmetic product wherein allergens have been inactivated, the cosmetic product comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13.

Claim 19. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Claim 20. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 19, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 21. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 3, wherein n is from 10 to 20.